

**CDCR SECRETARY JAMES TILTON PRESENTATION
TO ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON
PRISON CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATIONS
July 20, 2006**

CALIFORNIA'S OVERALL STATE PRISON POPULATION IS CURRENTLY AT AN ALL TIME HIGH OF APPROXIMATELY 172,000 INMATES. OUR MALE POPULATION REACHED 159,867

BY 2021, THE DEPARTMENT'S MALE POPULATION IS PROJECTED TO REACH 197,796

THE DEPARTMENT HAS RUN OUT OF TRADITIONAL (CELLED AND DORMITORY) CAPACITY.

INMATES HAVE BEEN FORCED IN NON-TRADITIONAL BEDS (GYMS, DAYROOMS, AND HALLWAYS)

THE DEPARTMENT IS CURRENTLY HOUSING OVER 16,000 INMATES IN NON-TRADITIONAL BEDS—ENOUGH TO FILL UP MORE THAN THREE ENTIRE PRISONS

NON-TRADITIONAL BEDS ARE CONTRARY TO GOOD CORRECTIONAL PRACTICE AND POSE A SAFETY RISK TO OUR STAFF AND OTHER INMATES

BY JUNE 2007, THE DEPARTMENT WILL RUN OUT OF THESE BEDS, WHICH NUMBER 18,572. WE WILL HAVE NO MORE ROOM TO HOUSE FELONS CONVICTED BY THE COURT

TO ELIMINATE THE USE OF NON-TRADITIONAL HOUSING BY 2021, THE NUMBER OF BEDS NEEDED BY THE DEPARTMENT GROWS TO MORE THAN 50,000

DUE TO LACK OF CAPACITY, USE OF PROGRAM SPACE, AND A SHORTAGE OF FUNDING EARMARKED TOWARDS PROVIDING PROGRAMMING TO OUR INMATES, MANY OF OUR INMATES ARE IDLE

INMATE IDLENESS, COUPLED WITH OVERCROWDED CONDITIONS, CREATE VOLATILE SITUATIONS IN OUR PRISONS EVERY DAY FOR OUR STAFF AND OTHER INMATES

BASED ON OVER-OPTOMISTIC ESTIMATES OF COST-SAVING MEASURES DESIGNED TO DECREASE PRISON POPULATION IN THE SUMMER OF 2003, A DECISION WAS MADE TO CLOSE THE DEPARTMENT'S TRAINING ACADEMY

ALTHOUGH THE ACADEMY IS REACTIVATED, THERE CONTINUES TO BE A CHALLENGE TO SUPPLY NEEDED CORRECTIONAL OFFICERS TO KEEP PACE WITH DEMAND

CURRENT ESTIMATES ARE THAT IT WILL TAKE APROXIMATELY 18 MONTHS UNTIL THE PIPELINE IS FULLY FUNCTIONAL

WE CURRENTLY PROJECT THAT BY OCTOBER OF 2006 OUR VACANCY RATE OF OFFICERS WILL BE OVER 2,400—OR 11 PERCENT OF AUTHORIZED POSITIONS

EVERY MONTH, THE DEPARTMENT RELEASES ALMOST 10,000 PERSONS FROM STATE PRISON—OR OVER 300 INMATES A DAY

THESE PAROLEES, BY LAW, ARE RETURNED TO THEIR COUNTY OF LAST LEGAL RESIDENCE

AN OVERWHELMING NUMBER OF THESE INMATES ARE RELEASED FROM PRISONS LOCATED IN REMOTE AND RURAL AREAS—SUCH AS BLYTHE, AVENAL, CRESCENT CITY, AND CORCORAN—WITH JUST \$200 AND A BUS TICKET BACK HOME

AS A RESULT, THERE IS NO EFFECTIVE WAY TO LINK THE OFFENDER BACK TO THEIR COMMUNITY BECAUSE OF THE REMOTENESS OF MANY OF OUR PRISONS

OFFENDERS WITHOUT STRONG TIES OR REENTRY PLANNING ARE MORE LIKELY TO FAIL ON PAROLE AND RECIDIVATE

CALIFORNIA MUST RETHINK ITS MODEL FOR HOUSING PAROLE VIOLATORS AND OFFENDERS DUE TO BE RELEASED IN ORDER TO IMPROVE THEIR CHANCES FOR SUCCESS, WHICH IN TURN WILL IMPROVE PUBLIC SAFETY